

CALL THE PARTY POLICE!

Barclays Center neighbors want city to tamp down traffic, crowds, if Dem convention comes

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Does anybody know a party planner?

The city must do something to ensure the dignitaries and party people attending the Democratic National Convention at the Barclays Center don't turn the neighborhood into a nightmare out of a Republican attack ad, residents demanded this week. The massive presidential-candidate-anointing party would come on top of nearly a decade of construction work at the mega-development formerly known as Atlantic Yards, frequent film shoots, and big events at the arena. The traffic, street closures, and crowds are just too much, a spokesman for a newly formed coalition of community groups said.

"This is just too much piling on," said Wayne Bailey, a Prospect Heights resident and member of the Barclays Center Impact Zone Alliance. "People in the neighborhood have always been the ones at risk, and then we have to scramble and try to do something after the fact. We don't want to do that this time."

Mayor DeBlasio and other Brooklyn boosters have been pushing to bring the convention to the borough, and it is now a finalist alongside the deeply inferior cities of Philadelphia and Columbus, Ohio. Bailey says his group is not against hosting the shindig, but that members want it to be carefully controlled — which, if the city's handling of Atlantic Yards is any indication, it won't be.

"The group has great concern about the ability of New York City to host the DNC smoothly given the long history of poor coordination of city and



Members of the group of Prospect Heights residents that is demanding that Mayor DeBlasio come up with a plan to limit the impact of bringing the Democratic National Convention to Brooklyn.

state agencies providing oversight over the operation of the arena and the construction of the project," the organization wrote in a statement.

In addition to clogging area streets, the residents worry the convention will actually hurt area businesses by restricting access to people who would regu-

larly frequent them. That prediction runs counter to the city's claim that the convention will bring in millions.

"It's a relative fantasy to think people are just going to be meandering around the area during the convention," Bailey said. "It's just not going to happen."

The group wants DeBlasio to appoint

a convention coordinator immediately in consultation with Atlantic Yards co-developer Forest City Ratner, as well as local pols and community boards. City Hall has agreed to do so, but wants to wait until Kings County clinches the hosting honors.

"We will name a community liaison

when selected as the host city," DeBlasio spokeswoman Marti Adams said. "We'll continue to engage with community members as we work together to build a convention that will bring maximum benefit to the city as well as the Democratic Party."

Among the fixes the neighbors want to

see are re-routing traffic away from the arena, and compensating businesses for losses. And while they're asking for things, they want the city to place a moratorium on film shoots in the neighborhood.

The bottom line is that the people pushing for the event don't have to deal with the hassle of waking up to it.

"It's easy for any organization to say they want it. But not all of these people live here," Bailey said. "The impacted community wants to speak for itself."

Not all locals are so skeptical.

About six dozen businesses, from the neighborhood and beyond, signed onto a letter of support on Jan. 23, telling Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Democratic committee chairwoman, that they want to bring the convention here.

Francine Stephens, who owns Franny's and Bklyn Larder, both on Flatbush Avenue, said she does see an uptick in business during big events, such as during the Video Music Awards.

"That night was very good for us," Stephens said. "The people who would normally be attracted to my businesses, there were just more of them."

She does acknowledge that during many events at Barclays people tend to go straight to the arena and then straight home. She said the mayor's office will have to come up with a plan to encourage convention-goers to explore the area around the Rust Bowl if local businesses are going to benefit.

"If there's no specific effort made, people will stay in Manhattan, take cars to the convention, and leave," Stephens said. "That's what will happen if there's no plan in place to steer people to the neighborhoods."

Photo by Elizabeth Graham



Plans to move the Boerum Hill post office to Dean Street have been scratched — because the new location was in the wrong zip code.

Zip slip dashes postal plan

B'Hill post office cancels move to building in wrong zip code

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Return to sender!

Plans to move Boerum Hill's post office seven blocks from its Atlantic Avenue location to nearby Dean Street have been sacked because the new location is in the wrong zip code, and residents are wondering how the agency that claims it delivers could make such a mistake.

"How the post office of all peo-

ple, as one of their first tests, did not plug this address into their own website is a mystery to me," said Community Board 2 District Manager Rob Perris about the so-called "Times Plaza" station.

The present office at 542 Atlantic Ave. between Third and Fourth avenues is moving because its lease has expired, according to a spokeswoman for the U.S. Postal Service.

The move-out date was sup-

posed to be at the end of 2014, but the landlord gave the agency an extension in order to have time to find a new location and make a smooth transition, the representative said.

The agency announced in August that it would set up shop at 594 Dean St. in Prospect Heights, about a 10-minute walk from the current spot.

But the office now appears to be moving to Park Slope, accord-

ing to a letter sent to Borough President Adams in December which said the agency had chosen a building at 288-290 Flatbush Ave. between Park and Prospect places.

An agency representative said that building, which once housed a Chase Bank branch, is the likely choice, but the lease hasn't been signed.

"This is still an active review of options that will serve the com-

munity in a smart, cost-effective way," said Connie Chirichello.

The foul-up is the latest mishap for a location that has long received complaints from patrons for its abysmal customer service.

Perris said he hopes the move to a new building will be a change for the better.

"The new building is contemporary, with lots of windows, so it looks like it could be at least physically a better location than the one on Atlantic Avenue," he said.

Brooklyn beer, minus the Brooklyn

'Bushwick' company hails first ale, now just needs a brewery in the boro

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn has a new brewery, only, like Brooklyn Brewery in its early days, it is not making beer anywhere near Kings County.

The new beer company Braven has released its first flavor, an India pale ale, after two years of planning, marketing, and fund-raising. The company says it wants to help return Bushwick to its heyday as a brewing capital — and advertises itself as "located in the historic Bushwick neighborhood of Brooklyn" — but for the foreseeable future the product is being brewed in rented vats upstate in Saratoga Springs. The trailblazing Brooklyn Brewery started brewing in Utica, New York in 1983 and didn't open its Williamsburg outpost until 1996.

Despite Braven's credibility gap, one of its founders said the first sips of the first kegs of beer are oh-so sweet.

"It has taken us a long time, but it is so worth it to us," Marshall Thompson said. "When you have a passion, you have to go for it."

The first variety is called Braven White, and by the end of the year the brewers hope to roll out a black pale ale and a pilsner. To come up with the recipes, Thompson and his partner Eric Feldman pored over articles and recipes about how beers were made back in the early 20th century in Bushwick, Thompson said.

"We have got enough technical in-



Marshall Thompson, left, and Eric Feldman, co-founders of Braven Brewing Company, enjoy their newly released Braven White beer at a launch party in mid-January.

formation, so we want to try to bring that back," he explained.

But finding space to open the first brewery in Bushwick in a half-century has, predictably in today's overheated real estate market, been tough.

HOW DOES IT TASTE?
SEE PAGE 2

"We are looking at a place tomorrow, but it is not the first place we have looked at and it probably will not be the last," said Thompson.

Thompson and Feldman, from Pennsylvania and Long Island, respectively,



became friends when they were college-aged and moved to Brooklyn in 2008. Here they worked on home-brewing projects together and, within a few months of starting, beer expert Josh Bernstein included them on his homebrew tour, touting their skills as professional-level.

Buoyed by the praise, they decided in 2013 to turn their love of suds into a Bushwick-branded business. The process proved to not be nearly as straightforward as they had hoped.

"Our business plan changed so many times and we spent so many hours poring over government regulations and licensing," said Thompson. "But people do not care about that. They just want to know if your beer is good."

If Brooklyn's flagship brand is any indication, turning a passion for homebrew into a major company can be done — and without brewing all or even most of one's product in the borough. Brooklyn Brewery has now established a global presence as an instantly recognizable piece of Kings County cool, but almost two thirds of its beer is still made upstate.



Snow kidding

A family braves the blustery wind on Prospect Avenue on Monday afternoon as the storm starts to pick up steam. State officials greatly overestimated 2015's first significant snowfall, closing the road, train, and subway systems in an attempt to preempt the effects of what turned out to be four-to-six inches of snow in most Brooklyn neighborhoods. Survey the aftermath on page 2.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

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Rising tide in Flatbush

Kings Theatre reopening sparks gentrification fear

By Zach Williams
for The Brooklyn Paper

Pols want the reopened Kings Theatre to make Flatbush a destination on par with Manhattan’s most opulent cultural attractions, but a local business leader fears that would drive out mom-and-pop shops.

The former picture palace opened to the public for the first time on Jan. 23, ending two years of painstaking restoration work that restored it to its grandiose original look, and repurposed it as a 3,000-seat performance venue. Pols on hand for the ribbon-cutting said that crowds coming to see acts such as Diana Ross and the Moscow Ballet will put the theater’s stretch of Flatbush Avenue between Tilden Avenue and Duryea Place on the map in a big way.

“This will be the new Lincoln Center of Brooklyn,” Flatbush Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte said.

Borough President Adams

concurred, saying that “a cultural revival of central Brooklyn” will take place around the theater, where currently discount-clothing stores, national chain stores, and fast-food restaurants dominate.

But the new attention could potentially triple commercial rents, which would be bad news for small-business owners, according to the head of the Flatbush Development Corporation. The gentrification could spill over into residential real estate, too, she said.

“You have to sit back and hesitate a little bit and think about the long-term residents who are lower-income and have rent-stabilized housing,” the Corporation’s executive director Robin Redmond said. “What’s going to happen to them?”

The head of the theater did not directly respond to whether the venue could trigger a rent spike, but said that the theater will bring more



Photo by Paul Martinika

The Kings Theatre is open for the first time in nearly forty years, but some worry it will speed gentrification.

shoppers to local businesses, and that management wants nothing but good things for the area.

“We’re committed to ensuring the Theatre’s return has a positive impact on Flatbush,” said Matthew Wolf, executive director, in the statement.

Most of the rest of the talk at the opening was optimistic.

Speakers at the ceremony remarked on how more than 100 jobs at the theater can employ young people in a space where their parents and grandparents recall milestones such as first dates and high school graduations.

The new roof, shining walnut walls, sparkling chandeliers, and adherence to the theater’s original, ornate French

Renaissance Revival details impressed members of Community Board 14 as they took in the interior of what had been a neighborhood eyesore for nearly four decades.

“I can’t believe they did it all in two years,” said board member Dawn Walker. “People from the community are ecstatic, especially people my age.”

The restoration ran \$95 mil-

lion with taxpayers footing half of the bill. The rest was picked up by Kings Theatre Redevelopment Company—a consortium of Ace Theatrical Group, Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group, and the National Development Council.

The theater will host a sold-out Diana Ross concert on Feb. 3 and a free open house on Feb. 7.

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Ghost trains

Cuomo defends subway closure as blizzard fizzles

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

On Tuesday morning Gov. Andrew Cuomo defended his decision to suspend subway service overnight on Monday, in the wake of revelations that the trains ran empty all night, and charges that the move ran against common sense.

The storm that meteorologists predicted would dump two-to-three feet of snow on Brooklyn wound up leaving just more than five and a half inches on the borough, but subway service was not restored until around noon, and many Brooklynites opted to stay home, leaving stores closed and subway platforms sparsely populated.

Cuomo said his call to keep passengers out of the city’s train system for the first time ever during a snowstorm came out of an abundance of caution.

“My attitude is if there’s a lean one way or another, if you will, lean toward safety,” he said. “I’ve seen the consequences the other way, and it gets very frightening very quickly.”

The statement followed an exclusive Brooklyn Paper report in which Metropolitan Transportation Authority insiders slammed the governor for catching emergency transit managers off guard with his announcement of the closure late Monday afternoon, saying that the stoppage stranded New Yorkers unnecessarily because the trains had to run all night to help keep the tracks clear.

Mayor DeBlasio, too, learned of the closure plan at the last minute.

“We found out just as it was being announced,” he told reporters on Tuesday.

Our Monday night report of trains traveling empty city-wide was borne out by data and witness accounts. Around midnight, the NYC Subway Time app for Android showed train activity in both directions on all lines that nor-



Associated Press / Seth Wenig



Photo by Paul Martinika

(Above) The Smith-Ninth Street station was open for business on Tuesday morning following an overnight closure of the subway system. (Left) In a press conference on Tuesday, Gov. Cuomo stood by his decision to close roads and public transit on Monday night.

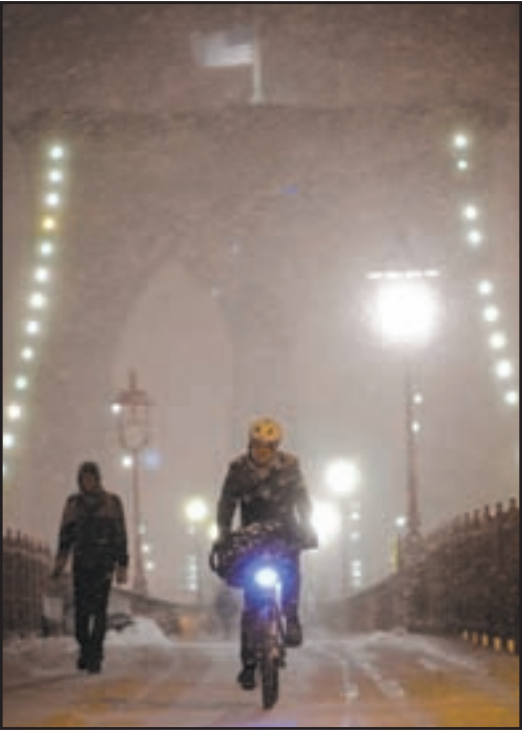


Photo by Paul Martinika

(Left) A rider makes his way over the Brooklyn Bridge on Monday evening. (Above) The snow may not have been crippling like public officials predicted, but it was enough to turn Prospect Park into a winter wonderland for cross-country skiers.

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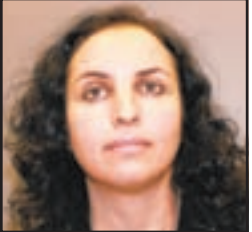
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Testing the new ‘Bushwick’ beer

It took Braven Brewing Company two years and some serious fund-raising to bottle its first beer, a light India pale ale called Braven White (see story on page 1). So how does it taste? The thirsty staff of The Brooklyn paper took a break from reporting the day’s news to swirl the beer around on our sophisticated palates and brew up some hard-hitting hops criticism.



Noah Hurowitz: It’s a bit like your uncle’s homebrew. The biggest drawback is the bitter finish.



Danielle Furfaro: It is nothing too unique. Which is probably what they are going for.



Nathan Tempey: I try to avoid white beers, but this is pretty palatable to me.



Vanessa Ogle: It is better than the coffee beer we tried back in October. (Vanessa hates beer.)



Ruth Brown: It would be good for sitting on a porch and it would be good with spicy food.

Busker on a mission

W'burg musician to sue city for 'wrongful arrest'

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The subway musician who police arrested for singing on a Williamsburg subway platform — just after an officer read him a law saying what he was doing was legal — is suing the city, claiming wrongful arrest.

In a confrontation caught on video last October, Officer Michael Franco arrested busker Andrew Kalleen while he was playing Pink Floyd and Neil Young songs on the Church-Avenue-bound platform of the G train at the Metropolitan Avenue station, even though Kalleen explained how what he was doing was perfectly legal according to the rules of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

He even had the officer read the law stating that his strumming was allowed, but was eventually taken away by Franco and two other officers, to the jeers of subway riders



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Officers arrested musician Andrew Kalleen last year for playing his guitar on the G platform of the Metropolitan stop. Kalleen claims that cops pick on buskers to meet their quotas.

awaiting the next train. He spent five hours in jail.

“The officer did not take care to handle this properly,” Kalleen said. “When he was faced with reading the law aloud, he should have changed his stance, but he chose not to.”

Kalleen has been to court four times so far. Twice he said he was told that the court did not have his paperwork. The other two times, he attempted to get a disposition, but was told he would have to get another court date first, he said. The process has left him frustrated with the court system as well.

“I have been pretty disappointed to see that a lack of integrity extends beyond the street,” he said.

Kalleen and lawyer Paul Hale say they will file the wrongful arrest lawsuit by the end of the month.

The city wouldn’t comment on the suit, saying that it would review it after it is filed.

Bad twins and bad weather

Rumor has it that when snowstorms hit the five boroughs every winter, my fine-feathered friends fly the coop down to West Palm Beach and sit Dumpster-side, sipping on mai tais, tricking the elderly into giving them far-too-generous portions of leftovers. That notion is for the birds.

If you know anything about pigeons, and I trust that my readers do, you know there’s no way we’re schlepping all the way to Florida just to avoid a little dusting. I got everything I need right here.

Well, except basketball. If we pigeons aren’t making the trek out of town at the slightest hint of winter weather, there’s no reason the local basketball club shouldn’t show the same respect. What, all of a sudden Adam Silver is Mike Woods? Let’s play ball, boys!



Flagrant Fowl with Crummy the Pigeon

from the Cavaliers, the broken-handed Lopez said the world wouldn’t soon forget what he would do to the Cavs’ canine hype beast. Not surprisingly, Moondog sonned Lopez.

Speaking of stepping up, the Nets will now need someone to fill in for Mirza Teletovic. The Big Bosnian is out for the season due to blood clots in his lungs. All the birds in the rafters are wishing Mirza a speedy recovery. Look for Cory Jefferson and Jerome Jordan to earn more minutes and Bogdanovic to pick up some of the scoring slack. But it’s probably not enough to plug the holes of this sinking ship.

The Nets’ Big Lug Brook Lopez, left, may not be around to defend against his towering twin Robin, right, come April’s rescheduled game.

I, for one, was looking forward to having Robin Lopez, Brook Lopez’s big lug twin come to my backyard at Monday’s game against the Portland Trail Blazers, which got

postponed on account of that historically lackluster storm. Word around the rafters is that the West Coast Lopez has got it out for NBA mascots. In a Twitter beef with my boy Moondog

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Pastor Amy Keinzle of this church on Russell Street opened a respite shelter despite opposition.

G’point church sheltering alcoholics

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A Greenpoint church has quietly opened a shelter for homeless alcoholics who frequent nearby McGolrick Park despite demands from residents not to give them a bed for the night.

More than 400 Greenpoint residents signed a petition against the shelter when Pastor Amy Kinezle of Lutheran Church of the Messiah first

floated the idea last month, arguing that the shelter will attract mentally ill men and leave residents prone to robberies and home break-ins.

“It is going to be a big problem on the block,” said neighbor Jane Bognacki. “These people need real professional help and this is not going to do that for them at all.”

In fact, the center, which opened on Thursday, Jan. 22, and will house 10 men, neither

requires men to go through an intake process nor demands they be sober.

And Kinezle says that is the point.

“It is part of the church’s mission to serve all of our neighbors, especially those who are at risk,” she said.

The church partnered with Common Ground, an organization that works with the Department of Homeless Services. It has provided the 10

rollout cots and two staffers each night.

It gives men a place to sleep from 8 pm at night until 6 am the following morning during the cold months. In the past year, two homeless men have died in the park.

Councilman Steve Levin (D–Williamsburg) worked with Kienzle to come up with a shelter plan, saying that the lives of Greenpoint’s homeless is more important than the

concerns of neighbors.

“I have an obligation to address this issue in my own community,” Levin said.

Kienzle added that the shelter’s mission is much simpler than trying to tackle big problems such as alcoholism.

“It is a small solution to an immediate need to prevent people from dying,” she said. “The main purpose is so people do not die.”

The Common Ground

employees will also alert the homeless men to other services and will encourage them to go to programs to treat mental illness and alcoholism in the mornings instead of going back out into the streets of Greenpoint.

Kienzle plans to keep the center open until the weather is warm enough to make sleeping outside safe, and she plans to open it again next winter.

Cops: 13-year-old mugs women in elevator

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

Police arrested a 13-year-old boy who they say robbed two women in separate elevator incidents on Jan. 12, the authorities said.

The first victim said she entered a building on Bridge Street, between York and Prospect streets at 7:55 am, and got into the elevator. The suspect followed her in and when she tried to exit at the seventh floor, he blocked her way, according to a police report.

When the elevator reached the 14th floor, the suspect grabbed the woman’s

purse, which contained \$20 in cash and a credit card, and ran, the report says.

The second victim said she got into the elevator of a building on Sands Street between Gold and Navy streets at 8:30 am, along with the suspect. When the elevator reached the 12th floor, the suspect allegedly pushed her to the ground and took her purse, according to officers. Her purse contained \$850 in cash and credit cards, police said.

Police arrested the teen two days later and charge him with both robberies.

Comfy criminals

A crew of miscreants stole a bunch of bedding from a

POLICE BLOTTER

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Front Street store on Jan. 16, cops said.

A worker at the store between Main and Washington streets said the treacherous trio entered at 6:45 pm and started stuffing things in to tote bags.

“Ain’t nobody stealing up in here — mind your business,” said one of the louts when a worker told them to stop, according to police.

Then the goons took off

without paying, the report says. Their haul included 10 linen duvet covers, eight linen shams, 10 organic duvet covers, 16 organic shams, and five sets of sheets, police said. The store reported that the items sell for \$5,300 altogether.

Laptops looted

An antisocial lowlife swiped a pair of laptops from a Schermerhorn Street school on Jan. 15, per police.

A teacher in the school between Boerum Place and Smith Street said he had a cart with 15 laptops in a classroom at 1 pm, and that by the end of the period two of the devices were gone.

Inmate uprising

Police officers arrested three men who they say attacked jailers in Central Booking on Schermerhorn Street on Jan. 13.

An officer said he told one of the prisoners to move to a different cell in the building between Smith Street and Boerum Place at 3 pm, and that the prisoner refused. As the officer tried to cuff the suspect, two other prisoners jumped on him and pulled

him away, the report says.

Three other officers heard the commotion and came into the cell to help, police said.

Two officers were injured in the fracas, one in the leg, the other in the face, neck, and shoulder, cops said.

Wayward inmate

Police charged another man with allegedly assaulting two officers, also inside Central Booking, on Jan. 16.

The defendant had just seen a judge and had his bail set at 12:50 pm and was brought back to a cell to be searched, according to cops.

The suspect was talking on his cellphone and when an

officer told him to hang it up so they could search him, he refused, officers said.

The pair of jailers approached him and the suspect became belligerent, kicking and flailing his arms to avoid being cuffed, police said. Both officers were injured, according to a police report.

Locker larceny

Someone swiped a ton of belongings from a woman’s locker in an Atlantic Avenue gym on Jan. 14, cops said.

The victim said she got to the gym between Court Street and Boerum Place at 7 pm and locked up her things before going for a workout.

She returned a half hour later to find that the items were gone, law enforcement officials said. The culprits made off with two pairs of boots, two jackets, a sweater, a pair of jeans, a hat, a pair of gloves, earrings, sunglasses, a watch, and a wallet, a report says.

Gang grab

Three toughs stole a man’s cellphone as he walked down Fulton Street on Jan. 15, officers said.

The victim said he was between Pearl Street and Boerum Place at 5:30 pm when the threatening threesome approached him.

One of them tapped him on the shoulder and asked if he was in a gang, but he did not respond and kept walking, according to a police report.

At that point one of the goons grabbed the victim, punched him in the face, and took his phone, then the fiends fled, the official account says.

Senior in danger

A group of eight teens robbed an elderly man at the corner of State Street on Jan. 15, the NYPD said.

The 72-year-old victim said he was near Sydney Place, headed to a friend’s house at 8:20 pm, when the gaggle of goons approached.

One of the delinquents showed him a knife and demanded his phone, according to the authorities. The man handed it over, along with \$50, and the group took off, a report says.

— Matthew Perlman

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook
Pizza pirates

A trio of toughs robbed a delivery guy of food on Jan. 25 in an apartment building on Hoyt Street, according to police.

The worker said he was bringing an order of pizza and calzones to a seventh-floor apartment between Douglass and Baltic streets, when he noticed a no-goodnik hanging out by the elevator.

Then he saw an unsavory character walk out the door at his destination and walk into a nearby stairwell, cops said.

And finally a third goon, wearing a mask, ran out of the stairwell, grabbed the insulated bag carrying the food, and dashed back into the stairwell with the other two, the authorities said.

The desperados made off with \$37 in food and the bag, which was worth \$150, a report says.

Roaming fee

A burglar swiped a pair of cellphones from a Carroll Street apartment on Jan. 21, officers said.

The prowler climbed into the apartment between Clinton and Court streets in Carroll Gardens through a rear fire-escape window sometime between 8:45 am and 9:45 pm, according to the authorities.

The victim returned home to find the window’s screen removed, the front door unlocked, and an iPhone 4 and a Nokia 928 taken, according to a report.

Tools out

A crook made off with thousands of dollars in tools and supplies after breaking into a construction site in the Columbia Waterfront District between Jan. 24 and Jan. 26, police said.

The owner left the construction site locked up at 9:30 pm on Jan. 24, and when she returned at 7:30 am on Jan. 26, the break-in artist had forced the door open and removed hardware, furniture, plumbing, and building materials worth an estimated \$12,800, according to a report.

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Snatch and grab

Thieves struck a Fifth Avenue luxury consignment shop in two separate incidents on Jan. 13 and Jan. 16, cops said.

In the first incident, a scoundrel sauntered into the boutique at Saint Marks Place, tore a \$2,800 Chanel bag from a display case, and dashed out of the store, according to a report.

Three days later, two ne’er-do-wells strolled into the shop and grabbed three bags, including a Louis Vuitton duffel bag worth \$1,100, a Stella McCartney purse valued at \$1,500, and another purse worth \$1,100, officers recounted.

More mayhem

In a third snatch-and-grab theft, a pair of punks swiped electronics from a cellphone store on Flatbush Avenue on Jan. 16, the same day as the second boutique robbery, police said.

The two thieves rushed into the store between Park Place and Seventh Avenue at 6:30 pm and grabbed two Samsung Galaxy tablets and one Samsung Galaxy phone, worth \$1,905 together, a report says.

The bandits damaged a display case in the process of stealing the loot, and promptly fled on foot, according to the NYPD.

Big wheels

A thief stole a pricey motorcycle from its parking space on Sterling Place sometime between Jan. 14 and Jan. 15, per law enforcement officials.

The victim parked his Bavarian Motor Works bike in front of his home between Flatbush and Vanderbilt avenues at 11 am, but when he returned the next day at 12:45 pm, the motorcycle, which he valued at \$23,000, had vanished, according to a report.

— Noah Hurowitz

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights
Cat burglar

A cat burglar climbed into a 68th Street apartment and stole \$500, credit cards, and a Chinese ID card on Jan. 23, according to cops.

The building-scaling thief got into the apartment between Eighth and Ninth avenues in Dyker Heights by ascending a fire escape and climbing through a window sometime between noon and 2:30 pm, police said.

Window pain

A crook climbed through the window of a 67th Street residence and stole \$2,300, credit cards, a checkbook, and a digital camera on Jan. 22, the authorities said.

The break-in artist got into the apartment between 11th and 12th avenues in Dyker Heights through a window sometime between 11 am and 6:50 pm, police said.

— Max Jaeger

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The Brooklyn *guide* enough

Balls out!

Musical Bingo spins tunes, not numbers

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Numbers are for old people. A new monthly bingo game coming to the Bell House in Gowanus offers bingo aficionados something a little more exciting than the spin of a wire ball cage. In Musical Bingo, players instead mark their cards by identifying songs played by a disc jockey. “It is kind of the grandchild of ‘Name That Tune,’” said creator Jess Indeedy. “But we are not trying to out-cool anybody. The songs are pretty accessible.” Indeedy has been running Musical Bingo nights in London since 2007, and is bringing the event to Brooklyn for the first time. “New York does not have anything like this,” said Indeedy (which, yes

indeedy is a stage name). “We think this kind of interactive entertainment is exactly what this city will love.” A ticket to the show gets you three rounds of bingo, plus a dance party. Each round has a different theme, such as ’70s disco, anthem rock, and ’90s rock, and prizes are awarded for each round. And unlike the bar trivia nights, spelling bees, and comedy shows that typically entertain the masses at Brooklyn watering holes, Indeedy said Musical Bingo doesn’t require much attention or focus. In fact, the light and loose event works best when everyone is talking and occasionally dancing, she said. *Musical Bingo at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third streets in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouseeny.com]. Feb. 3 at 7 pm. \$15–\$20.*



Your sax is on fire: Jess Indeedy, left, is the creator of Musical Bingo.

PLAY

Zine scenes

This play focuses on the real issues. A Park Slope arts collective is taking the February 2014 issue of Harper’s Magazine off the shelf and putting it on the stage — articles, ads, and all — at Jack arts center in Clinton Hill from Feb. 5–14. The writer of “The Harper’s Play” said he penned the production as an examination of how he obsessively reads the magazine, and selected last year’s February edition to highlight because it was filled with great snippets of writing that would translate from page to stage. “I read the magazine initially and thought it had some interesting theatrical ideas going on, but then had to read it dozens of more times to make sure I got a little bit of everything into the script,” said writer Paul Ketchum, one half of the Chooptown collective, along with Marty Brown, the play’s director. Ketchum said he structured the adaptation like a variety show, but still tried to find common threads among the magazine’s articles — no small feat given the topics are as disparate as the incarceration of Pussy Riot in a Siberian prison and a romance novel convention in Las Vegas. But the shared themes make for some of the best and funniest on-stage moments, he said. Even the fundamentals of the magazine are coming to life in this play — so expect scenes that include the advertisements, the masthead, and the Harper’s Index translated to the stage, with a lot of sudden shifts throughout the performance, Brown said. “One moment you’re in a relationship counselor’s office and then all of a sudden you’re in an advertisement for a senior living facility or whatever,” he said. “The Harper’s Play” at Jack (505 Waverly Ave. between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue in Clinton Hill, www.jackny.org). Feb. 5–14 at 8 pm and Feb. 13 at 10:30 pm. \$15. — Sarah Iannone



Alaina Ferris

FILM

Short stroll

Hey, he’s walkin’ here! A new short film about an old man’s shuffle to the grocery store, written and shot entirely in Brooklyn, will debut at Videology in Williamsburg on Jan. 30. The filmmaker said she was inspired to make the flick when she witnessed an elderly gent taking his sweet time to cross an intersection in Manhattan. “This guy was walking slowly, cars were backing up, and the man just had such a look of contentment,” said Alexandria Collins, who wrote and directed the short film, dubbed “Milk Run.” “I just wanted to look at a normal morning in the life of this older man.” Shot almost exclusively in Park Slope, “Milk Run” follows the brief journey of an elderly man whose wife, frustrated while he works on a piece of classical music that has vexed him for decades, sends him out on a mission to buy ingredients to make pancakes. The film only runs for about 10 minutes, but in that time, the man, Petey, has a series of interactions with people along his route that turn the trip to the store into a much more significant morning. Collins said she saw the inspiring olderster last summer, and had a draft of the script two weeks later. Collins lives in Bushwick, where she moved last winter after finishing school in Florida. The film takes place in Park Slope near the Seventh Avenue F and G stop, which Collins said she and her producers picked for its instantly recognizable brownstones and also as an homage to the filmmaker’s adopted borough. “I thought it would be best to set it in Brooklyn because I wanted to showcase the best borough,” she said. “Milk Run” at Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at South First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468, milkrunpremiere.eventbrite.com.] Jan. 30 at 7 pm. Free. — Noah Hurowitz



Alexandria Collins

Bulldogs? Bull s---

New book takes aim at purebreds

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

This should give you paws for thought. The scribe who literally wrote the book about New York’s poop scoop laws will be at BookCourt in Boerum Hill on Feb. 7 to talk about his new work, “A Matter of Breeding.” In the book, he criticizes a dog culture obsessed with purebreds, saying the craze is about little more than status. “It’s very much like having a favorite football team,” said author Michael Brandow. “You love them no matter how bad they are.”

Brandow traces the interest in canine lineage back to the Victorian era, when aristocratic subjects of the United Kingdom were overly concerned about their own bloodlines because it actually dictated their place in society. They wanted their dogs to be a symbol of their status, he said. “That’s when dogs were first color-coded for the stage,” he said. “They were standardized into types that had never been recognized before.” He credits the American Kennel Club for bringing the fixation to today’s dog culture. “The AKC, an elite social club for millionaires, sold this idea of purebreds to the average consumer,” he said.

The result, Brandow said, is that many people today choose their best friends based largely on looks and labels — the same way people select sneakers because of a brand insignia. “All these years we’ve been selecting for looks rather than health or behaviors,” he said. “It’s like any brand-name affiliation.” The trouble is that purebreds suffer greatly from poor health, he said. “They have shocking levels of cancer and epilepsy and other problems, yet people go on buying them anyway,” he said. In Brooklyn, like in most places, the types of dogs you see are often related to the income level of the area, Brandow said. You are

more likely to find poodles or bulldogs in a neighborhood like Park Slope than in Bushwick or Crown Heights. But he does take exception to Spike Lee’s famous claim about Fort Greene Park. “Have you seen Fort Greene Park in the morning? It looks like a m----- Westminster Dog Show,” Lee said during a lecture last February. “I’m sure a lot of those dogs in Fort Greene Park are mixes,” Brandow said. “I think Spike Lee might just resent dogs.” But there is some good news, Brandow said. On the whole, people are starting to wake up to the idea that breeds are not important. This can be seen with the recent popularity of pit bulls, which Brandow said are not even a breed at all. “People are learning that you don’t need breeds,” he said. “Dogs are individuals.” Michael Brandow at BookCourt [163 Court St. between Dean and Pacific Streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 875-3677, www.bookcourt.com]. Feb. 7 at 7 pm. Free.



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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
Jan. 30

Dance off

It is a battle royale of boogie. Head On — a monthly dance party that pits two genres of music head-to-head with winner decided by which generates the most grooving — is squaring off soul music and disco in a Motown vs. Studio 54 contest. Will Supremes-era Diana Ross triumph over “Love Hangover” Diana Ross? Only dance can decide!

10 pm at Baby’s All Right [146 Broadway at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–5800, www.babysallright.com]. Free.

SATURDAY
Jan. 31

One-time thing

They’re just making it up as they go along! Williamsburg performance space Triskelion Arts is hosting a new festival dedicated to improvised performances, called Never Before, Never Again. The fest, which runs Jan. 29–Feb. 1, promises works featuring dance, music, comedy, and spoken word. It is, literally, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

8 pm at Triskelion Arts [118 N. 11th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–3577, www.triskelionarts.org]. \$16.

8 pm at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400, www.unionhallny.com]. \$8–\$10.

SUNDAY
Feb. 1

Sunday night live

Live from Park Slope, it’s ... SNL Writers Unscripted, a show featuring “Saturday Night Live” writers doing improv comedy live on stage. This edition’s scribes-turned-performers include Natasha Rothwell, Alison Rich, Meredith Scardino, Claire Mulaney, and Katie Rich.

8 pm at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400, www.unionhallny.com]. \$8–\$10.

MONDAY
Feb. 2

Take two

Brooklyn Historical Society kicks off its new weekly film series with William Greaves’s acclaimed 1968 documentary “Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One.” The film will be introduced by actor and Park Sloper Steve Buscemi and followed by a discussion with writer Richard Brody and Shola Lynch of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

6:30 pm at Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111, www.brooklynhistory.org]. Free.

7:30 pm at Brooklyn Brewery [79 N. 11th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, www.brooklynbrewery.com]. \$5–\$10.

THURSDAY
Feb. 5

Food fight

Two of Brooklyn’s favorite bar-based speaking series, Presentation Party Night and Verbal Fight Club, will join forces for an epic night of discourse and debate about the ethics of eating meat at Brooklyn Brewery. Whet your appetite with some lectures on the topic, then sink your teeth into an on-stage war of words, in which audience interjections are welcomed and encouraged.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JAN. 30

ART, “NOMAD SONGS” OPENING RECEPTION: Duane Zaloudek debuts watercolor and gesso paintings and paper cowboy hats in his exhibit, “Nomad Songs.” Free. 6–9 pm. Robert Henry Contemporary [56 Bogart St. between Harrison Pl. and Garrison St. in Williamsburg, (718) 473–0819, www.roberthenrycontemporary.com].

CARDBOARD ROBOT BATTLE IV: Nine contestants will build their own robot out of cardboard and packing tape then battle each other. \$15 (\$13 advance). 8 pm. Standard Toykraft [722 Metropolitan Ave. between Graham and Manhattan avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388–3163, standardtoykraft.org].

MUSIC, EMILIO TEUBAL ENSEMBLE: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

SAT, JAN. 31

MUSIC, JAZZ 4 KIDS: Vocalist and educator Lauren Hooker introduces kids to Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Mongo Santa Maria, and Sonny Rollins. Free. 1 pm. Brooklyn Public Library’s Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230–2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

MUSIC, ELISA AMBROGIO, NATHAN BOWLES, PAL BERTA, SURFBORT: \$7. 8 pm. Silent Barn [603 Bushwick Ave. between Jefferson and Melrose streets in Bushwick], silentbarn.org.

MUSIC, LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO: \$30. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, CUMBE MOVING PARTY: Cumbe celebrates its move with music, samba dance classes, and a community bazaar of jewelry and crafts. \$10–\$20. 9 pm. Cumbe Center for African and Diaspora Dance [558 Fulton St. at Flatbush Avenue Extension, (718) 935–9700], www.cumbedance.com.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: Urban rangers lead a discussion on the

Oh, Canada: The Nets face the Raptors on Jan. 30.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, JAN. 30	FRI, FEB. 6
SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. TORONTO RAPTORS: \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.	SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. NEW YORK KNICKS: \$95–\$4,000. 7 pm.
SAT, JAN. 31	FRI, FEB. 13
MUSIC, IGOR KRUTOI GALA CONCERTA: Composer is joined by Russian singers. \$65–\$955. 7 pm.	SPORTS, BBVA COMPASS RISING STARS CHALLENGE: The NBA’s top rookies and sophomores compete. \$22–\$87. 9 pm.
MON, FEB. 2	THUR, FEB. 19
SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS: \$35–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.	RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY PRESENTS CIRCUS XTREME: \$15–\$65. 7 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

SUN, FEB. 1

MUSIC, KELLY HALL-TOMPKINS: Chamber violinist performs. Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library’s Central branch [Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230–2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/branch_library_detail.jsp?branchpageid=265.

CITY SQUIRRELS: Learn all about the urban variety. Free. 1 pm. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center [Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 722–3218].

ART, BLACK ARTSTORY MONTH ARTWALK: View artwork by more than 25 Brooklyn artists at businesses along Myrtle Avenue. Free. 4–6 pm. Various locations [Myrtle Avenue between Carlton and Clason avenues, (718) 230–1689], www.myrtleavenue.org/blackartstory.

MON, FEB. 2

MUSIC, LES NUBIANS: \$12. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

TALK, RON LIEBER: New York Times columnist discusses his new book, “The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money.” \$10. 7:30–9:30 pm. Congregation Beth Elohim Early Childhood Center [Eighth Avenue and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 768–3814 X210], www.congregationbethelohim.org.

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Happily ever crafters!

Artists stage original fairy tale in Boerum Hill

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

There is a whole universe being built inside a Boerum Hill arts venue.

A Park Slope artist and his creative team will tell an original, immersive fairy tale five ways — through prose, performance, song, illustration, and scenery — at the Invisible Dog Art Center from Feb. 5–8. And don’t let the word “fairy” put you off — the tale ditches the Disneyesque “Once upon a time ... happily ever after” dress for something much darker, the creator said.

“We’re trying to go back into the old world of fairy tales — not so light, like ‘Frozen,’ but more like ‘Grimm’s Fairy Tales,’” said John McGrew. “Creating this whole world that we’re placing inside the Invisible Dog.”

The story, framed as vignettes, centers on a town that is shaken from extreme stasis when a traveling merchant appears, peddling wares that change townsfolk’s lives for better or worse.

Four actors will tell the tale, accompanied by three string players, a piano, drums, and guitar — à la the multimedia children’s story “Peter and the Wolf,” McGrew said.

One guest artist illustrated the tale, and another made a replica of a holy tome that figures into the story. And the production’s creative team is turning the venue into a set for audience members to explore before the show proper.

“We’re encouraging people to download the album beforehand and listen to it while walking through the space,” he said.

The Brooklyn-by-way-of-Ohio fabulist said he was inspired by surroundings past and present.



Art of storytelling: Austin artist Katy Horan illustrated John McGrew’s (pictured left) tale in a stark and whimsical style.

“I grew up in woods, so being in the city, I have to get out and go for a walk every day,” said McGrew. “All these ideas came from walks throughout Prospect Park and Fort Greene Park.”

McGrew outlined the plot and

composed most of the music — a mix of moody ambient music and lush choral arrangements—over the last two-and-a-half years. Filmmaker Joe Varka fleshed the tales out and is directing, and Brooklyn musician Graham Fisk helped McGrew polish

the soundtrack.

“*Village of Vale*” at the Invisible Dog Art Center [51 Bergen St. between Boerum Place and Smith Street in Boerum Hill, (347) 560–3641, www.theinvisibledog.org]. Feb. 5–7 at 8 pm. Feb. 8 at 3 pm. \$10.

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Bloody good show

‘Let the Right One In’ proves teen vampire stories don’t have to suck

The **Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension**

Sink your teeth into this! You might think you have had your fill of teenage vampire romances, but you would be a sucker to miss the National Theatre of Scotland’s production of “Let the Right One In,” playing at Saint Ann’s Warehouse in Dumbo through Feb. 15.

The play, which playwright Jack Thorne adapted from the 2004 Swedish novel and subsequent film, gives a peek into the life of bullied and lonely teen Oskar (Cristian Ortega), who spends his time avoiding his overbearing alcoholic mother and hiding from his abusive schoolmates. The best moments of Oskar’s life are when he sits alone at the playground of his dreary apartment complex — he is too old to actually play, but too young to do much of anything else, so he spends these moments fantasizing about revenge against his tormenters.

One day, Oskar meets Eli (Rebecca Benson), a strangely forward, athletic, childlike creature who appears to be about Oskar’s age — and female. The two get to know each other and learn to be allies as they both endure traumatic events.

Eli is a slave to all the typical myths of vampirism — the sun burns, humans must invite vampires indoors, and they need blood to survive. But unlike most other vampire stories, Eli is not evil. The creature treats vampirism as more of a sad affliction for which many victims have suffered. But Eli’s motives are not entirely altruistic. For most of the play, it appears that Eli is Oskar’s savior, but the conclusion leaves the audience wondering just what the boy’s fate will be and how much better off he might have been if Eli had never come along.

The Butcher is a huge fan of the Swedish film, and was excited to see how the play would hold up. The film, set in a tiny suburban town in the dead of Swedish winter, is infused with a sense of emptiness and desolation. This production does a nice job of match-



Fangs for the memories: Cristian Ortega and Rebecca Benson play the lead roles in “Let the Right One In.”

ing that by leaving the stage set as a snow-covered forest for the entire show. Simple pieces of furniture are used to make quick changes to indoor scenes, and the arrangement also allows the director to juxtapose two scenes simultaneously.

Fans of the movie will find themselves wondering how the producers of the play will replicate the infamously

brutal and cinematic swimming pool scene. Let me just say that they do, and with aplomb.

“Let the Right One In” at Saint Ann’s Warehouse [38 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in Dumbo (718) 834–8794, www.stannswarehouse.org]. Through Feb. 15. Tuesdays–Fridays 8 pm, Saturdays 3 pm and 8 pm, Sundays 2 pm and 7 pm. \$45–\$60.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

COMEDY, THE MEHRAN SHOW: \$10 (\$8 in advance). 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

TUES, FEB. 3

TALK, REBECCA SCHERM: Author discusses her debut book, “Unbecoming,” detailing a tale about obsessive love and an art heist gone horribly wrong. Anne Helen Petersen joins her in conversation. **Free.** 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

COMEDY, DUMBO COMEDY: Live music followed by comedy. Presented by Aaron Kominos-Smith and Meghan Hanley. **Free.** 7 pm. Dumbo Kitchen [108 Jay St. at York Street in Dumbo, (718) 797–1695], www.facebook.com/dumbocomedy.

TALK, STORYTELLING WITH ADAM WADE: Moth StorySlam winner hosts an evening of storytelling. **Free.** 8 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240–5850], www.sycamore-brooklyn.com.

WED, FEB. 4

DANCE, “RHYTHM STORIES”: Pureelements Dance presents a colorful montage of dance, song, and poetry about African American heritage and history. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 10 am and 12:30 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/kumbletheater.

FILM, “A MAN CALLED ADAM”: Part of the library’s African Americans in ‘60s Hollywood series. **Free.** 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library’s Central branch [Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230–2100], www.brooklyn-publiclibrary.org.

THURS, FEB. 5

TALK, JOHN CARPENTER — LOST THEMES: Horror filmmaker John Carpenter talks to NPR host Brooke Gladstone. Tickets start at \$25. 8 pm. BAM Rose Cinemas [30 Lafayette Ave. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, MERMAID LAGOON OCEAN BENEFIT: Fifth an-

nual benefit, raising money for charities benefiting the ocean. The show features musicians, dancers, circus performers, and interactive art installations. \$20–\$25. 9 pm. Lot 45 [411 Troutman St. between Wyckoff and Saint Nicholas avenues in Bushwick, (347) 505–9155], www.mermaidlagoon.org.

FRI, FEB. 6

MUSIC, VICEROY: \$15. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

DANCE, “SWAN LAKE”: The State Ballet Theatre of Russia presents the Tchaikovsky ballet. \$35 (\$30 in advance). 8 pm. On Stage at Kingsborough [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368–5596], www.onstageat-kingsborough.org.

SAT, FEB. 7

ART, TARGET FIRST SATURDAY: Brooklyn Museum’s First Friday celebrates Black History Month with music, film, and talks. **Free.** 5 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200

Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

THEATER, THINGS APPEAR WEIRDER IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR: An evening of art that reinvents classic stories, including an ancient Persian political drama transformed into sci-fi, and classical compositions played on ‘90s synths. \$8. 8:30 pm. Standard ToyKraft [722 Metropolitan Ave. between Graham and Manhattan avenues in Williamsburg], www.standard-toykraft.org.

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

I really like Midwood Flats, a beer bar in Prospect Lefferts Gardens.

I do have a few quibbles with the place:

Prices are a little high.

\$6 for Narragansett?

Food portions could be bigger.

And 20 beers on draft...
...with no descriptions?
Hmph.

But every time I visit, I have a great time chatting with people:

What's the 'Radiant Pig Gangster Duck'?

I don't know! Let's find out together!

Soon!

Cheers!

2 oz. samples

What are you drinking?

Really?

Gangster Duck Ale!

Midwood Flats [577 Flatbush Ave. at Midwood Street in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, (718) 484–4466, www.midwoodflats.com]. Open Sun–Thu, 5 pm–2 am; Fri, Sat, 5 pm–4 am.

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MakerBot alum Sam Cervantes started Solidoodle on his kitchen table in Park Slope in 2011, and now he is ready to take on his old colleagues.

3-D at a discount

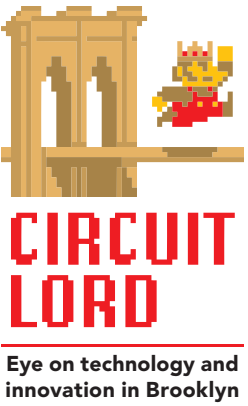
Printer company takes aim at MakerBot

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Meet the new MakerBot. The Carroll Gardens company Solidoodle, run by a former MakerBot executive, is selling three-dimensional printers for a fraction the price of its competitor's. The goal is to make the devices a common appliance for everyday people, the founder said.

"The grandiose idea at the time when we started was to put a 3-D printer in every home in the world," said Sam Cervantes, who started Solidoodle in his Park Slope kitchen in 2011 after stints at MakerBot and as an aerospace engineer. "We want to make them ubiquitous."

The dream is not far from that expressed by Cervantes's



old boss Bre Pettis in a 2012 interview with this paper. But Solidoodle's printers are more accessible than its pioneering predecessor because they start at less than half the price, with

its Solidoodle Press going for \$599. That model, which is slightly smaller than MakerBot's cheapest, is a real plug-and-play machine, Cervantes said.

"They're pushing the upper end of the market," he said of MakerBot. "We're going from the early adopter to the mainstream."

The company has shipped 10,000 units so far and is looking to ramp up production. Cervantes sees three-dimensional printing as the next wave of innovation because it allows designers to immediately make the things they think up.

"You can have an idea and then have it in your hand the next minute," he said.

The technology can also be

used to speed mass-production, which Solidoodle does to make its own products. The Press is now manufactured in China but the rest of Solidoodle's models are assembled in a small factory on Hicks Street alongside the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway ditch. The building also houses the company's office, and some components for the printers are actually printed on other Solidoodle printers.

"Very meta," Cervantes said. "We're really drinking our own Kool-Aid."

The cramped Carroll Gardens production floor is staffed by 20 employees, half of whom are Brooklynites, Cervantes said. And though the products are high-tech, the jobs, he said, are like any factory job.

"They're blue-collar jobs. They're turning nuts and bolts. Assembling electronics," he said.

Johanni Diaz, an assembly technician with the company who lives Downtown, used to drive a school bus. She said she knew nothing about three-dimensional printers before she started, but she has come to enjoy working on them.

"I like the job a whole lot. It really makes me think," she said through an interpreter.

Once the crew perfects a design and demand is high enough, he said the production will be outsourced in order to keep costs down, as was done with the Press. But he said he will never leave the borough entirely.

"We always want to do Brooklyn manufacturing," he said. "And we know that a lot of customers care a lot about that. But other customers are worried about price."

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Drug bust in Vinegar Hill

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Call them the Vinegar Hill gang. Police arrested 14 suspected drug traffickers in a bust at the Farragut Houses last Thursday, after a 10-month investigation and more than 100 undercover purchases of crack cocaine and heroin, the authorities said. Cops also say they recovered three guns along with

crack, heroin, and marijuana in the shutdown, which a prosecutor said will help make the public housing complex safer for residents.

"The arrests we announce today shut down a major supplier of cocaine to gangs that traffic narcotics in Farragut Houses, and removed guns readily available to spawn violence and chaos in this community," said prosecutor Bridget Brennan. "Guns

and drugs threaten the safety and security of too many of our city's public housing residents."

Police started their investigation last March after complaints from residents about drug activity, and following incidents of gang-related violence in the area. The suspects allegedly conducted their sales in building lobbies, near the playground, and out of nearby businesses, including a Chi-

nese restaurant and deli on York Street, investigators said. They also frequently rotated the locations where they stored the narcotics in order to evade law enforcement, cops said.

One of the suspects, known as "Shottie," even stole \$1,000 from an undercover officer who was trying to buy drugs from him, officials said.

Police searched four Farragut Houses apartments on Thursday looking for suspects and hit the alleged jackpot when they say a suspect jumped out the window of the stash-house.

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A tall tale on honesty

We're told that honesty is the best policy, but is it reasonable to expect that your teenagers are going to tell you everything?

Do you tell *them* everything?

I am forced to look back at my own preteen and teen years as my boys get left more and more to their own devices, and I am scared. What kids do for fun and to proclaim their independence can be a little frightening.

Actually, it can be a lot frightening.

And yet, we must be fearless. What good parenting seems to require is a measure of calm unparalleled in any other circumstance. What good parenting seems to require is the removal of one's cerebral cortex so no scary thoughts might emerge.

Our own fears are what will push us further and further apart from our kids, and what will remove any slight chance

Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

at productive dialogue.

Take, for example, a recent afternoon when my 13-year-old texted me to say he was going with a friend to buy a birthday present after school.

"Great, enjoy," I texted back.

I didn't ask where he was going, but in my mind it was to the local GameStop or Barnes & Noble. In my mind, he was in Park Slope.

Later, when we met for dinner, it turned out that Eli had gone into Manhattan, into Soho, to check out some skate shops. I had to stop and think. Was that a problem? He took the train every day, back and forth from school or to visit

My husband and I looked at each other. Compliance was what we were looking for, easy-peasy agreement of a simple rule.

But it was not to be. "Why?" often gets in the way.

My husband offered up his take.

"Because we're you're parents, and we're worried about you," he said. "You'll understand when you're a parent."

Of course. It made perfect sense. Parents are worried about their children, and so the children need to take care to make the parents less worried. Right. That's the way it should go.

From the back seat, though, there was still confusion and dissent.

"Really, I just don't understand why you'd care."

Eli's logic — or illogic — was driving my husband understandably crazy.

"What's not to understand?" he said, frustrated. "You just need to tell us."

I got it, then, from Eli's end.

He is not a parent, won't be — hopefully — for a good decade-plus. He hasn't had that sinking feeling in his gut during even a millisecond when he imagines something might have happened to his child.

He knew where he was, and he knew he was fine. It was us who had the problem, and he couldn't understand it.

I tried to placate. How had this become an argument? The teenage years were going to be long and hard if we didn't chill out enough to offer some non-angry explanation he could understand.

"We're not mad at you, honey," I said. "You didn't do anything wrong, it's just that you knew where you were and we didn't, and I pictured you in Park Slope. Not that it's a big deal, but the city is further to get back from and..."

Wait. Why did it matter? Was I more scared because it would take longer for him to get back? All we can do is cross our fingers, and keep our communications with our kids calm and open-minded.

They are their own people, after all. And soon, they will be taller than I am.

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